

ONLY NATIVE FRESHWATER FISH ALLOWED IN PUBLIC WATERS - DOF

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PUTRAJAYA, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- The Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF) said fish released into public waters must be native freshwater species to protect the ecosystem and fisheries resources.

Its director-general Datuk Adnan Hussain said uncontrolled releases or the introduction of unsuitable species could threaten local fish populations and natural habitats in rivers and lakes.

He said only native freshwater species may be released into public waters, subject to approval from the relevant State or District Fisheries Office.

"Among the native species permitted and commonly used for release are *kelah, tengas, temoleh, tengalan, sebarau, lampam sungai, terbul, baung, puyu* and freshwater prawns," he said in a statement today.

Adnan said the DOF views seriously a viral video showing fish being released into Sungai Klang.

He stressed that any release activity must be carried out responsibly and in accordance with established technical guidelines.

"All parties, including statutory bodies, government and private agencies, religious organisations, non-governmental organisations and individuals intending to conduct fish or prawn release programmes, must first obtain approval from the State or District Fisheries Office where the activity is to be held," he said.

He added that adherence to technical guidelines is crucial to ensure the species released are suitable and do not disrupt ecosystem balance or local fisheries resources.

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